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千年迷宮の壁新聞

NO.8 wall newspaper of thousand years labyrinth 8号目

STORY

千年迷宮イグニス城に集められた優秀な八人の若者。彼らの中のいずれかが、次にこの国を治める皇帝になると定められている。

不審を抱きながら、城の最深部に進むユアンは、『真王の扉』にてアマデウスは生きており、その正体はメサイアだったと知る。オセロとメサイアは、滅びたイグニス帝の復活を目指す"血統復古党"の特殊工作員だったのだ。オセロに刃を向けられるユアン——絶対絶命に思われたが、メサイアはユアンを救い、改めて彼に尽くすと誓う。

オセロは死に、メサイアは行方不明となるが、それ以外の七人はからくも千年迷宮城を脱出する。しかし、安堵する間もなく、ロレンスの実父である皇帝が、危篤であるとの報せがもたらされる。

ロレンスは皇帝の死に目に立ち会うが、悲しみの中で、叔父からさらなる衝撃の事実を告げられる。千年迷宮城で起こった事件や血統復古派との関係についてギデオン、オーガスト、ザン達取り調べを受け、オセロの共犯者であったメサイアを騎士団が追い——そして、イグニスの末裔であるユアンは、血統復興派の筆頭であるがゆえに、監獄に死ぬまで閉じ込められる、と。

CHARACTERS

ユアン

心優しく他人を信じる心を持つ。実はイグニス皇帝の血を引く存在。

ロレンス

皇術や剣術に優れる。その正体は皇帝の息子。ユアンが王になることを願っている。

オーガスト

千年迷宮城の持ち主である皇帝の子息。女装男子。タイタスに盗まれた城の秘宝を取り戻そうとしている。

メサイア

卓越した推理力で名を馳せる名探偵。迷城ライタスとは兄弟の仲。その正体は、血統復古党員のアマデウス。現在生死不明。

ザン

帝国一のカリスマ番手。皇后だが、賄力に優れる。皇帝に厚々しい野望が入っている。

ギデオン

若手市民運動家。次代皇帝として周囲の声が絶えない。平和の為、争乱の種となるユアンを殺そうとした。

タイタス

大盗賊団のリーダー。貧しい人々も飢えることのない国を作るため、実権をもつ皇帝となることを目指している。

オセロ

血統復古党の秘密工作員。皇帝の息をひくユアンを救い、メサイアとアマデウスを次なる皇帝に育てるため画策する。逮捕にて死亡。

Drawn for you!

Summary of the previous chapter

EWAN IS CAPTURED AS PART OF A PLOT OF SOMEONE WHO'S EATING THE COUNTRY OUT FROM WITHIN...
EVEN IN DESPAIR, HE...
第20幕
千年迷宮の七王子
Seven prince of the thousand years Labyrinth
花鶏ハルノ　相川有

ALONE IN THE DARK..
HOW MUCH TIME...
HAS PASSED...?
I CAN'T FEEL IT... ANYMORE...
NEITHER PAIN... NOR HUNGER...
EVERYTHING... IS BECOMING DISTANT...

So you're the orphan of Ignis, Ewan Juno.
My name is Iscariot Moore.
WHO...
WHO IS HE..?

I am one of the seven lords, the feudal lord of central Solem,
and the prime minister of this country.
Ewan Juno.
I proclaim you a dangerous figure bringing chaos to this country
and sentence you to a lifelong confinement in the "everlasting prison".

.....
Oh come on!
Please calm down, brother!
There is no hidden passage there!
You are not like your usual, composed self!
Fay Ackroyd
Lawrence's adoptive brother
You should stop trying to escape.
IT'S TRUE...
I ENDED UP ACQUIRING A HABIT OF SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN PASSAGES WHEN FACED WITH A DEAD-END...
...And so, it's high time you gave up on that boy already.

They could have killed your father because they wanted Ewan Juno, the descendant of Ignis, on the throne.
Your real father.. emperor Elbert was assassinated by the sanguinists.
..I, being the emperor's biological child,
wasn't qualified to be an emperor candidate.
Why did you become so frantic for that boy's sake?
That's why... Even if we're not at all connected by blood,
When Ewan learned that, he still said that it didn't matter
Ewan is the friend I want to walk hand in hand with in the future ahead of us.
It's the obsession over blood that's ridiculous...

Brother, I understand that you treasure Ewan Juno.
Nevertheless, it might be too late to save him.
NO, NO YOU CALL THAT BEING FRIENDS ?
To the point that I would sacrifice my life for him!
Your response is bothering me
Prime Minister Moore, who seized full authority over the country after the emperor's passing,
is, as you can see, a superior and stubborn man who, once set on something, will never change his mind.
He will soon send Ewan Juno to the underground "everlasting prison"...
Once sent down there,
no one, not even prison guards, can return.
It's not a place where you can survive on your own, and what is called imprisonment is, in reality, execution.

What happened?
WOOF!
WOOF WOOF WOOF!
RROW
RROOW...
I understand your feelings but we have no power to...
Hey! How're you doing?
チキ
I bet you're happy to see my face!
.....
You...
TITUS...!!
Why...

didn'tyou take Ewan along when you were escaping from the carriage...!
If you yell everyone's gonna hear you though?
Because he said he wouldn't go.
Do you want to escape somewhere faraway and forget about this country?
...I can't.
"I can take you anywhere you want!" I told him.
Everyone I met at the labyrinth, my friends from the island, my brother.
I have so many people dear to me in this country...
Besides, I don't want to run away.

There will be desperate people in this country who will try to raise children like Otheilo, and this will trigger even more disasters.
Even if I'm gone from this world,
the chaos won't ever disappear.
There must be at least one right thing in this country
and survive until the day it's proved.
That's why I'll at least continue to plead my innocence
So that someone on the verge of despair...
could notice at least one small hope!

..Ewan..
is definitely the person who can't disappear from this country...
Are you crying? Well, sorry, but we've got no time for that
Right now, your power is needed to prove that innocence of his!
The "right thing" Ewan was talking about...
Even if you say that, there are several guards on the watch, so...
Is this a ceremonial sword...?
I picked it up in the warehouse below
It's not really sharp but you can handle a bunch of guards with that, can't you?
...

I will definitely escape from this castle.
And after that, I'll listen to your plan of action...!
What on Earth caused such an uproar!
Uncle! Uncle!
Fay!
Brother ran away!
Good lord... Lawrence did...!?
When you started following him, had he already escaped outside?
Please do not be absurd, there's no way I can stop him.
In terms of strength
It appears that the missing thief had prepared a weapon and a horse for him.
Incidentally, they also broke the southern fence of the stable and the henhouse...

What kind of friends did this child make in the thousand-year labyrinth castle...
I was instructed to give you this.
And this is...?
Apparently, it is the poison the enemy who was after their lives had been carrying in the labyrinth.
It seems to be the same poison that was used to assassinate His Majesty.
However, even if it can be proven that everything was the work of the sanguinists,
there is no way to rescue Ewan Juno from the prison...
He also entrusted you, as the chairman, to call a privy council.
A privy council!?
Wait a moment
What is the meaning..
Who knows...? Definitely not me.
Also, there was one more thing.

Is it really fine like this...?

We were safely released

but at this rate, Ewan will....

Well, it's imprisonment if he's lucky, or execution if he's a bit luckier.

August!

I only know that the "uncovering of the last mystery" will take place.

UNCOVERING OF THE MYSTERY...?

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THESE CHILDREN TRYING TO ACHIEVE...?

If everything turned out like Gideon said.
He saw that, since Ewan's descent became public, he himself would become the eye of the storm.
.....
Is there any way we can rescue Ewan...?
I told you already.
Soldiers are keeping watch around the mansion.
We, as a matter of fact, are under house arrest.
They won't let us walk around freely, you know..?
I wonder how many of them can be bribed.
So that's how it is.
What is it?
Only a handful of them have connections with the prime minister
A list of influential people who are in debt to the Morgan family.
When it comes to him, everything's super stiff.
...By the way, August.

There are soldiers of the Morgan family in this mansion as well, right?
Well naturally!
We never employ unskillful guards!
Wait, you've got to be kidding me! You absolutely can't!
Absolutely!!
Can't!!
If you take down the guards and escape outside, this time you'll be sent to prison for treason!
But if we don't get moving now, we won't rescue Ewan!
E— Exactly what he says—!
No, you can't!
You can't gain a lot by sacrifi..
We have to get the influential people involved—

You seem to be doing fine, August.
はあああ？
Like hell I'm fine!!
Be more discreet
Why are you carrying that dangerous thing, hurry up and hide somewhere!!
Young master, thanks to the intruders, the soldiers are all fired up now....
Is it okay to start fighting back...?
Soldiers of the Morgan family
You shouldn't have worried, August.
That's true!
And so.. Are you going to rescue Ewan now, Lawrence?
Yes.
But we can't enter the prison with just Titus and I.
So Titus is also safe!

Tell Ewan to pay me back afterwards!
August!
To be the prison guards
..I understand. Once you've taken care of the guards here,
I'll lend you as many of our soldiers and as much gold as you need.
And this is..?
...Now have this
A bunch of keys...
Messiah entrusted them to me when we were parting.
When the time comes, use these— is what he said.

Please save Ewan.
I understand! Leave Messiah's treasure and dealings with influential people to us.
Be careful!
Something is engraved here, isn't it. Street name and house number... I think?
Good grief
Are we searching for treasure again?
This rescue mission is being performed a little too skillfully, considering they planned it alone.
I see.
Indeed, it would not be surprising if there were one more keen-witted person behind the scene!
Alright! We're gonna get busy!
...Gideon? Is something wrong?
No..
I thought it was strange.

...Are you scared?
To think... there was such a place... in the empire...
...This place is called the dark side of the empire for a reason.

Many people were kept here: the emperors' political opponents,
ideological offenders,
friends,
family,
as well as the emperor himself at times.
the seven traitorous lords,
Their anguish faded away into this darkness.
However, I believe that at times darkness is also essential for the country.
If you were to be chosen as the emperor,
that's the dark side you'd have to be burdened with.
His Majesty Elbert who stopped breathing was someone who didn't see darkness.

Pure and honest,
he acted as though malice didn't exist in people,
and he believed in people's strength.
He was someone who always lived in the light.
Emperor Elbert was...
not the right governor because he didn't see darkness
Is that what you want to say...
That may be true but...
His mis-government is at the same time our - the seven lords' - misgovernment.
I don't know what the state of affairs will be when you seven take reign...

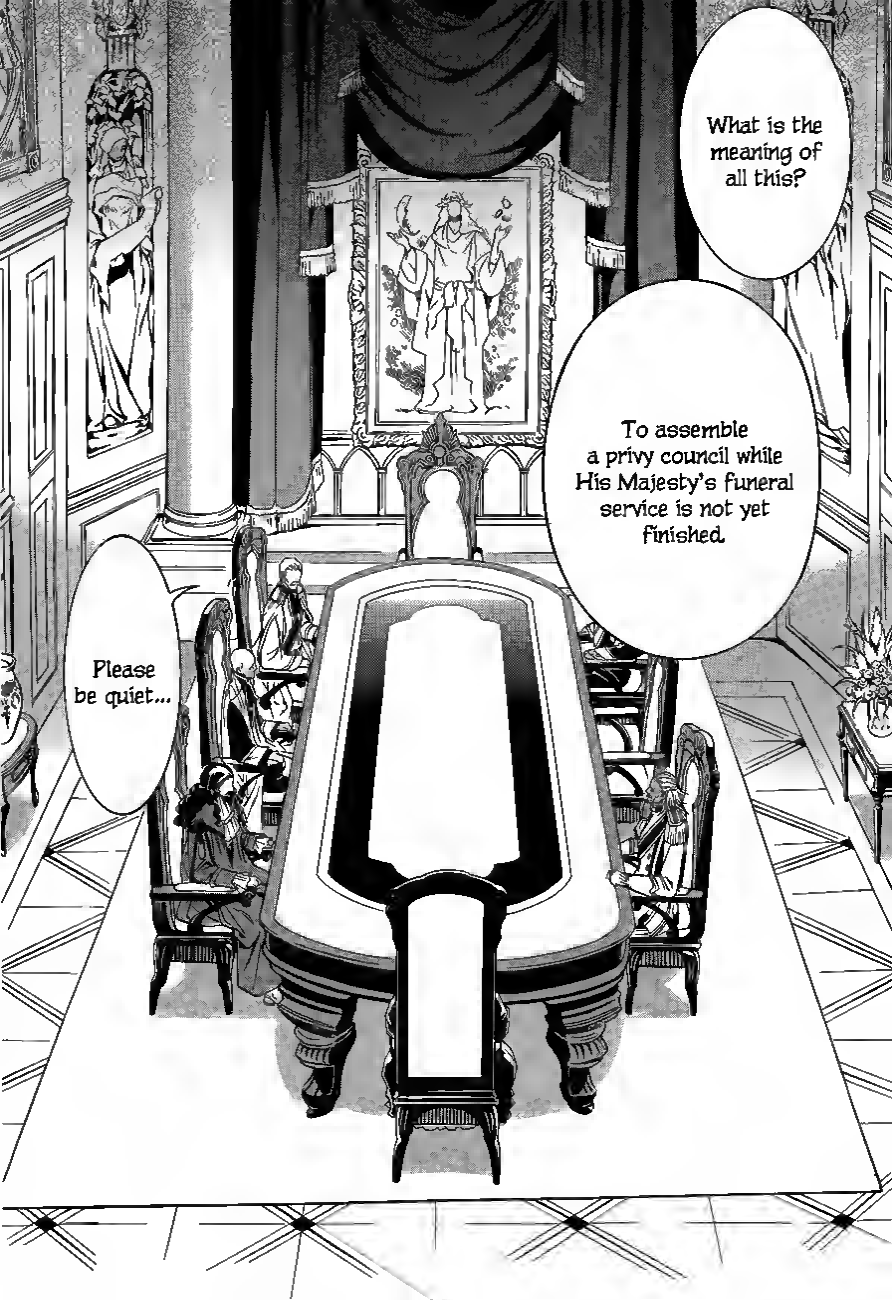
We don't know either...
But I'm sure..
At night... thou shalt be.. fight.
At noon, thou art a shadow.
It will be like in the labyrinth..
Always close together...
Supporting each other...
I MISS...
EVERYONE...

From then on, it's complete darkness.
This rope will be severed as soon as you're dropped.
Your existence will be eternally hidden.
However, you yourself will end up seeing nothing
Giving up a moment earlier
will be your only mercy.

I...
THE HOPE INSIDE OF YOU
GIVES ME STRENGTH.
WON'T LOSE IT...
NO MATTER HOW SMALL A LIGHT,
I WON'T EVER LOSE IT...!!
How did it go?
Did you disappear safely?

Cut the rope.
はあ
My... What a stubborn child.
In any case, he won't be able to climb up.
He managed to grasp on the wall mid-fall.
はあ
は
Certainly, sir.
Nuh-uh.
What ...

!!
Your escort knights have already returned to the surface!
Fighting back is pointless.
Law-rence...!
Ewan!
Just a bit more.
I'll pull you out now..
Ewan!
THAT'S THE LIGHT... I DIDN'T... LOSE...


What is the meaning of all this?
To assemble a privy council while His Majesty's funeral service is not yet finished.
Please be quiet...

I gathered everyone here precisely
In relation to His Majesty the emperor's death...
.....
There was an accusation that one among us, the present seven lords, is a serious traitor.
With this, we created an opportunity to hold the inspection as soon as possible,
Isn't that right, Mr. Accuser over there?
Yes.
It's absolutely correct.

Now this detective Messiah Reed
will expose this country's darkness for you...!!
Next issue, the whole truth will be brought to light!! Center color and a shockingly touching finale!!
CONTINUED IN JULY ISSUE OF ZERO SUM
ON SALE 05/28